

PROMISING PRACTICES

Promising Practices is an initiative sponsored by the Postsecondary Education Research Center (PERC) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The series highlights evidence based practices promoting student success inclusive of access, persistence, retention, and postgraduate success.

tnAchieves and Southwest Tennessee Community College's Jenny and Randy Boyd Summer Scholars Institute – November 2017

In the Memphis area, 75% of high school students met the eligibility for the TN Promise; however, only “five to 10% enrolled” in postsecondary education as of Fall 2017 according to Krissy DeAlejandro, Executive Director of tnAchieves. According to Southwest Tennessee Community College President, Dr. Tracy Hall, SWTCC was “not seeing the conversion of completing the FAFSA and enrolling in college.” To address this critical issue, the Jenny and Randy Boyd Summer Scholars Institute was created. Over the 2017 summer semester, the Institute hosted 39 students from the Memphis area at SWTCC.

The Institute started “with the idea of eliminating summer melt and reaching more south Memphis students, tnAchieves partnered with Southwest Tennessee Community College to offer students the opportunity to eliminate remediation, earn college credit, and ultimately boost confidence” according to DeAlejandro. To bring this idea to life, tnAchieves, SWTCC, Jenny and Randy Boyd, and Mayor of Shelby County, Mark H. Luttrell Jr., partnered to provide the 10-week program.

The goal of the program was to help get these students into the higher education pipeline with the skills for success at their chosen institution. Of the hundreds of high school students who were eligible for TN Promise upon graduation, 39 students participated and completed the program. All of them enrolled in college for the fall semester. SWTCC retained 34 participants and the other 5 participants enrolled elsewhere.

Jenny & Randy Boyd Summer Scholars Institute



39
Students



10
Weeks



18
Credits

High-Impact Practices

Orientation
Cohort Model
Parent Involvement
Prescriptive Scheduling
Mandatory Tutoring
Dedicated Staffperson
Provided Resources

Outcomes

87%
Enrolled
at
SWTCC
Fall 2017



13%
Enrolled
at Other
Institutions
Fall 2017



As a part of the Institute, students enrolled in 18 credit hours of coursework during the summer semester after they graduated from high school. Each student enrolled in nine hours of college-level English and math courses and (by means of a co-requisite model) nine hours of remedial and supplemental instruction courses.

Along with their coursework, Institute staff incorporated high-impact practices shown to enhance student success. Students attended the same courses and activities as a cohort. As a cohort, students completed the 2017-2018 FAFSA and attended a 45-minute orientation to the program, which the students' parents or guardians were also encouraged to attend.

The Institute staff also implemented prescriptive scheduling of courses and tutoring. Students had a set schedule from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Within this schedule, each student attended required tutoring sessions provided by the college. In addition to faculty members and tutors, the students had a dedicated staff member on site to provide answers to questions, monitoring their progress, and helping to remove potential barriers to the student's success.

Along with SWTCC President Hall providing resources for the program, tnAchieves staff worked with Mayor Luttrell to offer participants with the means to overcome barriers to attending the Institute. Mayor Luttrell and Shelby County provided financial resources through guaranteed public transportation to ensure that the participants could get to campus.

The intent of the Institute was to get students into the higher education pipeline. The program not only helped them enter college, but also gave them skills to enhance their success. The partnership between tnAchieves, SWTCC, Jenny and Randy Boyd, and Shelby County demonstrates proven results and a promising practice to serve students in Tennessee.

DeAlejandro commented, "Relying on high impact practices, the program was an overwhelming success. We look forward to continuing to support our students as they pursue college credentials as well as explore opportunities to scale this impactful program. We are thankful to Jenny and Randy Boyd for their continued investment in our students and our state."

For more information about tnAchieves and the Jenny and Randy Boyd Summer Scholars Institute, please contact Krissy DeAlejandro at krissy@tnachieves.org or Jacqueline Faulkner, SWTCC Vice President of Student Affairs, at jfaulkner@southwest.tn.edu.



Image of Institute Participants and Randy Boyd

If you would like us to feature your institution or program as a promising practice, please contact PERC at PERC@utk.edu or (865) 974-3972.

